

Medicare Care Advisory Committee Meeting
Panel Voting and Discussion Questions
September 9, 2003

Panel Voting Question 1

Is there adequate evidence to draw conclusions about the net health outcomes (that is, whether or not the risks and benefits of treatment outweigh the risks and benefits of non-treatment) of ocular photodynamic therapy (OPT) with verteporfin in routine clinical use in the population of Medicare beneficiaries who have age-related macular degeneration (AMD) and occult with no classic choroidal neovascularization (CNV)?

Panel Voting Question 2

If the panel answers the first question affirmatively, does the evidence demonstrate that OPT with verteporfin treatment improves net health outcomes in treating age-related macular degeneration (AMD) and occult with no classic choroidal neovascularization (CNV), and if so, what is the size of the benefit in patients receiving the treatment?

Panel Discussion Question 1

Neither the TAP nor VIP trials address cessation of verteporfin therapy. Under what circumstances should treatment be discontinued?

Panel Discussion Question 2

What additional research studies might be useful in clarifying outcome measures, subgroup of patients most likely to benefit, duration of treatment, and other aspects of the use of verteporfin in the Medicare population?

Panel Discussion Question 3

If the evidence demonstrates that OPT with verteporfin improves net health outcomes, does the size of effect of treatment, from a societal perspective, outweigh the clinical risk and cost its widespread use would create for patients and the Medicare program?